



Atty. Docket No.: 21715/1010

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Pelletier et al.
 Serial No.: 09/689,952
 Filed: October 12, 2000
 Titled: Compositions and Methods Involving an
 Essential Staphylococcus Aureus Gene
 and its Encoded Protein

Examiner: Kam, Chih Min

Group Art Unit: 1653

Conf. No.: 7855

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AND REPLY

Sir:

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on January 26, 2004 in the above-identified application. Reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are shown in the "Listing of the Claims" which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Amendment to the Drawings begin on page 13 of this paper and include substitute drawings 2, 6, 7, 11, 12, and 14 filed herewith.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this paper.

Please enter the following amendments and remarks.